

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01962 041544Z

44

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 EB-03 INR-05

CIAE-00 L-01 /039 W

----- 069541

P 041410Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8581

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1962

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH CZECHOSLOVAKI FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: SECTO 8089

1. EMBASSY WISHES TO REGISTER ITS APPRECIATION FOR THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK AND TO UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE THIS MEETING MAY HAVE FOR US-CZECHOSLOVAK BILATERAL RELATIONS. COMING SEVEN MONTHS AFTER PASSAGE OF THE TRADE ACT WITH ITS LONG-GRAVEL PROVISIONS, THE SECRETARY'S PRIVATE AND THEN PUBLIC ASSURANCES THAT THERE IS "NO OBSTACLE ON US SIDE TO AN IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS" WILL BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY HERE, AND PROVIDE A NEEDED BOOST TO ALL OF USINTERESTED IN AVOIDING STAGNATION IN US-CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS.

2. EMBASSY IS KEENLY AWARE THAT US POLICY TOWARDS ALL OF EASTERN EUROPE IS PURSUING ITS OWN LOGICAL DEVELOPMENT, IN WHICH CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S PLACE CANNOT BE EXAGGERATED. WE RECOGNIZE THAT CSCE'S CONCLUSION IN HELSINKI (AND SECRETARY'S CONVERSATIONS THERE) DOES NOT SIGNIFY ANY NEW POLICY BUT RATHER ANOTHER STEP, ALBEIT AN IMPORTANT ONE, ON A FAMILIAR ROAD. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIALS, WE WILL BE CAREFUL TO KEEP THEM FROM EXAGGERATING THE ELEMENTS OF NOVELTY IN THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 01962 041544Z

BILATERAL SITUATION, AND TO EMPHASIZE THAT WE ARE

STILL CAREFULLY APPROACHING ONE ISSUE AT A TIME.

3. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WOULD BE REMISS NOT TO REMARK THAT SOME OPPORTUNITIES DO PRESENT THEMSELVES. WE HAVE BEEN OBSERVING THE CZECHOSLOVAKS CHAFING AT THE "HOLD" ON BILATERAL RELATIONS IMPOSED AFTER PASSAGE OF THE TRADE ACT. IN AMBASSADOR SHERER'S FAREWELL CALLS AND DISCUSSIONS, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAKS WANTED SOME WAY AROUND THE LONG-GRAVEL IMPASSE. WHEN THE AMBASSADOR SPOKE OF A "HOLDING PATTERN" FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS, ACTING PRIME MINISTER (AND NEW PRESIDUM MEMBER) HULA CORRECTED THIS AND SAID A HOLDING PATTERN WAS STATIC, BUT THE CZECHOSLOVAKS HOPED TO SEE A "SPIRAL UPWARD." THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHERS HAVE PURSUED THE SAME THEME. IF NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS MAKES SENSE WITH USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE IN GENERAL, AND WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN PARTICULAR, THEN DESPITE THE TRADE ACT, THE CZECHOSLOVAKS SEEM TO BE SAYING THAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOME STEPS TOWARDS NORMALIZATION ARE PRESENT.

4. THE SECRETARY OPENED THE DOOR TO THE MOST PROMISING OPPORTUNITY BY HIS DISCUSSION OF TALKS ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGES. DURING AMBASSADOR SHERER'S FAREWELL CALL ON CHNOUPEK, THIS ALSO CAME UP, AND IT SEEMS THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAKS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SEEING TALKS START (WITHOUT WAITING FOR ACTION ON LONG-GRAVEL OR ON THE TRADE ACT). ALTHOUGH THE CZECHOSLOVAKS HAVE FORMALLY SPOKEN CONSISTENTLY OF TWO AGREEMENTS, ONE ON SCIENCE-TECHNOLOGY, ONE ON INFORMATION-CULTURE (WITH AN OBVIOUS EXCESS OF INTEREST IN THE FORMER), OUR POSITION HAS BEEN THAT THERE MUST BE ONE COMBINED AGREEMENT. THE EMBASSY STILL BELIEVES SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE IN THE US INTEREST OVERALL, AND NEGOTIATIONS FOR A COMBINED SCIENTIFIC-CULTURAL-INFORMATION AGREEMENT WOULD SEEM PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE AS A FOLLOW-UP TO CSCE.

5. FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK'S MENTION OF THE PRO-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PRAGUE 01962 041544Z

POSED VISIT BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN JIBES WITH THE IMPORTANCE OUR OFFICIAL CONTACTS HERE HAVE BEEN PUTTING ON SUCH A VISIT. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER RUZEK HINTED STRONGLY THAT A HARTMAN VISIT WOULD BE THE IDEAL TIME TO AGREE ON NEGOTIATIONS FOR A SCIENTIFIC-CULTURAL AGREEMENT. FROM THE EMBASSY'S POINT OF VIEW, A VISIT BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN IN AUTUMN, FOLLOWING UP ON THE SECRETARY'S CHAT WITH

CHNOUPEK, WOULD BE EXTREMELY VALUABLE. (IT MIGHT ALSO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROPOSE MUTUAL ABOLITION OF CLOSED AREAS, AN IDEA WHOSE TIME IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA THE EMBASSY BELIEVES HAS COME.)

6. ONE OTHER POSSIBILITY FOR THE NEAR TERM, WHICH WOULD FLOW LOGICALLY FROM THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS AT HELSINKI, WOULD BE AN INVITATION TO DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN TRADE JAKUBEC TO VISIT US ALONG WITH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DELEGATION WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO SIGN BILATERAL CHAMBER AGREEMENT ON OCT 17. DEPARTMENT INFORMED US (IN COMMENT ON ANNUAL POLICY ASSESSMENT, STATE 152840) THAT SUCH AN INVITATION WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION, AND AT THE PRESENT TIME IT WOULD BE A SMALL POSITIVE STEP WITHOUT ANY IMPORTANT DRAWBACKS.

7. EMBASSY WISHES TO EMPHASIZE THAT IT HAS PARA 4 AND 5 OF REFTEL FIRMLY IN MIND, I.E. TO AVOID ANY ACTION AND TO AWAIT DEVELOPMENT OF NEW GUIDELINES IN DEPT. PRESENT MESSAGE IS MEANT MERELY AS EMBASSY CONTRIBUTION TO DEPARTMENTAL DELIBERATIONS THAT WILL NOW TAKE PLACE. WE ARE NOT DRAMATIZING THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH CHNOUPEK, BUT WE DO BELIEVE IT PUT US IN A POSITION TO TAKE SOME SMALL BUT WORTHWHILE STEPS: IN PARTICULAR, HIS PUBLIC MENTION OF THE DECISION TO START TALKS ON EXCHANGES GAVE US A VALUABLE OPENING WHICH WE HOPE CAN NOW BE PURSUED. IN SUM, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF EXISTING POLICY THERE IS NOW AN OPPORTUNE TIME TO CONSIDER SOME MODEST MOVES FORWARD IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

PERRY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PRAGUE 01962 041544Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMITY, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, TRADE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRAGUE01962
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750268-0792
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750885/aaaacwwz.tel
Line Count: 154
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 SECTO 8089
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH CZECHOSLOVAKI FOREIGN MINISTER
TAGS: PFOR, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (CHNOUPEK, BOHUSLAV)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006